

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph [0023] beginning at page 6, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0023] As used here, a "computer-readable medium" can be any means that can contain, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device. The computer-readable medium can be, for example but not limited to, semiconductor system, apparatus, device, or storage medium that [an] electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, or infrared signals can be stored into or read from, ~~or semiconductor system, apparatus, device, or propagation medium.~~ More specific examples (a non exhaustive list) of the computer readable-medium can include the following: an electrical connection having one or more wires, a portable computer diskette, a random access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), an erasable programmable read only memory (EPROM or Flash memory), an optical fiber, and a portable compact disc read only memory (CDROM).

Please replace the paragraph [0025] beginning at page 6, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0025] Referring now to the drawings wherein the showings are for purposes of illustrating preferred embodiments of the present invention only, and not for purposes of limiting the same, Figure 1 is a flowchart illustrating a method of determining an optimized parameter for a circuit simulation. In step 3001, critical-path circuits of full circuits for the circuit simulations are determined for the bisection procedure. The range and precision of the bisection procedure and clock cycle timing need to be decided. In step 3002, the circuit is simulated based upon an initial optimization parameter (OP). For the reliability-based characterization illustrated in Figure 1, the OP is the setup time or hold time for the circuit. The initial minimum and maximum OP's are determined by user specified information. In step 3003, the primary criteria parameter (PCP) is calculated for the initial minimum OP. The PCP is the bisection error for the setup time or hold time. Hereinafter, the term "bisection error" is defined as a half of the difference between the minimum and maximum values of an interval at each iteration step of a bisection method. For

instance, the bisection error may be defined as a half of the difference between the minimum and maximum OPs. Once the PCP is calculated, then the circuit is simulated in step 3004 for the initial maximum optimization parameter (OP). In step 3005, the current PCP is then calculated for the initial maximum OP.